



**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. 051-2005**

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**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** February 18, 2005

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

A handwritten signature of Jorge M. Gonzalez in black ink.

**Subject: WEEKLY UPDATE**

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The purpose of this LTC is to provide you with an update describing some of the areas the Administration has recently been focusing on:

**FY 2005/06 Budget** – Staff from the Office of Budget and Performance Improvement (OBPI) have held a series of training sessions with representatives from all City Departments to begin preparing for the FY 2005/06 budget using the new Eden budget preparation module. Discussions and budget preparations with all City Departments will continue throughout the next several months.

**Miami Beach Community Survey** – The phone calls to residents started on February 5 and continued through February 15 with approximately 550 completed surveys. Given the impact the Boat Show may have on the results of the survey, no calls will take place from February 16 through March 1. Phone calls to residents are scheduled to resume on March 2. An LTC with a draft copy of the business and a draft copy of the civic organization surveys was sent on February 9 asking for feedback from the Mayor and Commission. The target date to start the business and civic organization surveys is early March.

**Major Events Plan (MEP)** - Staff continued to plan and prepare for several major events taking place on Miami Beach in the next couple of weeks including the Miami International Boat Show and the Yacht & Brokerage Show from February 17-21 and the South Beach Wine and Food Festival from February 25-27.

**2005 Elections** – Staff has been working with the County to coordinate the City's efforts for the County-wide election taking place on March 8. City Hall and the North Shore Library are both early voting sites starting on Monday, February 21 through Sunday, March 6. All precincts throughout the City will be open on Election Day, March 8. Additional information regarding the March 8 election can be found at the County's election website at: [www.elections.metro-dade.com/](http://www.elections.metro-dade.com/)

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**City Hall Parking Complex** - A community design workshop was held on February 10 for the new City Hall parking complex. Several design concepts were presented. This proposed project is to add a substantial amount of parking and will free up parking in the garages along Lincoln Road and accommodate the New World Symphony Project. Some limited retail is also proposed, and a connection to the main City Hall building and 777 Building.

**Public Safety** – Representatives from the Police Department attended the February 10 Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board meeting to discuss our current policies as they relate to mentally ill intervention. During the discussion, Circuit Court Judge Liefman complimented the Miami Beach Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team's efforts. On February 10, members of the Strategic Investigations Unit worked an Anti Prostitution Detail with 26 arrests being made, of which, 21 were for prostitution related offenses, two for strong arm robberies, two for disorderly intoxications and one for obstruction of justice. On February 10, Chief De Lucca attended a Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) awards ceremony where he accepted an award on behalf of the Miami Beach Police Department for our ongoing efforts in ensuring safety in our community.

**Organizational Development** – Training on our new, enhanced customer service standards have begun with the goal of ensuring that all employees receive the proper training and resources to be able to deliver outstanding customer service. I also had an opportunity to hold brown bag lunch meetings with all staff from the Building Department on February 8, the Sanitation Division on February 9, and Office of the City Manager on February 10 to discuss any issues that may be of concern to employees in those areas. I also took this opportunity to discuss the *Excellence Miami Beach* initiative which focuses on the City's Mission, Values and Vision. An LTC with details regarding this initiative was sent on February 16.

**Parks & Recreation** - The Parks & Recreation Department hosted approximately 150 young people as part of the "Step Up Florida" event on February 16 at the North Shore Park and Youth Center. "Step Up Florida" is part of the Florida Department of Health's statewide program aimed at promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles among the state's residents and visitors. On February 17, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted a "Kids Come First" town meeting at the North Shore Park Youth Center. A dozen representatives from several public and private organizations participated and offered suggestions on our current programs as well as new ones that will address the interest and needs of youth in K-12<sup>th</sup> grade. This meeting was a first step in continuing our efforts to open channels of communication amongst the various diverse groups we serve and to establish working partnerships with the various organizations. Our newest program, "Movies in the Park" is scheduled to begin on February 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the North Shore Park and Youth Center with the film *Shark Tales*. You and your families are welcome to attend this first in a series of movies in the park.

**Victory Garden** – The dedication and opening of the community Victory Garden took place on February 17 with community gardening information and heritage exhibits complimenting the opening. A good number of residents from South Pointe turned out for the dedication which also honored the late Joseph Villari.

**Labor Relations** - Staff from the Office of Labor Relations completed a state certification program administered by the Florida Public Employer Labor Relations Association (FPELRA), a division of the National Public Employer Labor Relations Association (NEPLRA) which is a nationwide organization of over 2,000 public sector professionals employed by federal, state and local governments, schools and special districts. The certification focused on collective bargaining, and related employment law areas under Chapter 447 of the Florida Statutes which governs the Public Employees Relations Act.

**Cultural Arts Council (CAC)** – On February 9, I had an opportunity to meet with the Chair of the Cultural Arts Council to discuss several ongoing issues and explore ways in which the City can further help the Cultural Arts Council achieve its mission and deliver its various programs to the community.

**City Boards and Committees** – Staff from the Office of the City Clerk and the City Attorney met with all Board and Committee staff liaisons on February 8 to talk about the role of the liaisons as they relate to providing support to the Boards and Committees staff is assigned to.

**Black History Month** – February is Black History Month and an employee led committee has been working on plans for this year's celebrations. An exhibit is currently on display in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery of City Hall which pays tribute to African America musicians. A proclamation will be presented at the February 23 City Commission meeting declaring February Black History Month in Miami Beach and an employee luncheon event is scheduled for February 24.

**Women's History Month** – March is Women's History Month and to commemorate, the City is planning its first ever art exhibit during the month of March in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery of City Hall. In addition, the City is partnering with the Commission on the Status of Women to host an event to present this year's "Women Worth Knowing" awards on March 22 at the South Beach Marriott. An LTC with additional details regarding this event will be sent shortly.

**City's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** – Staff is working on several initiatives to celebrate the City's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. With a proposed theme of *"Miami Beach, our vibrant, tropical, historic community...90+ years in the making"* several events are being planned that will take place over the course of the year. Once additional details are available, I will share with you. In the meantime, if you have any ideas on how to celebrate the City's birthday, please let me know.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.